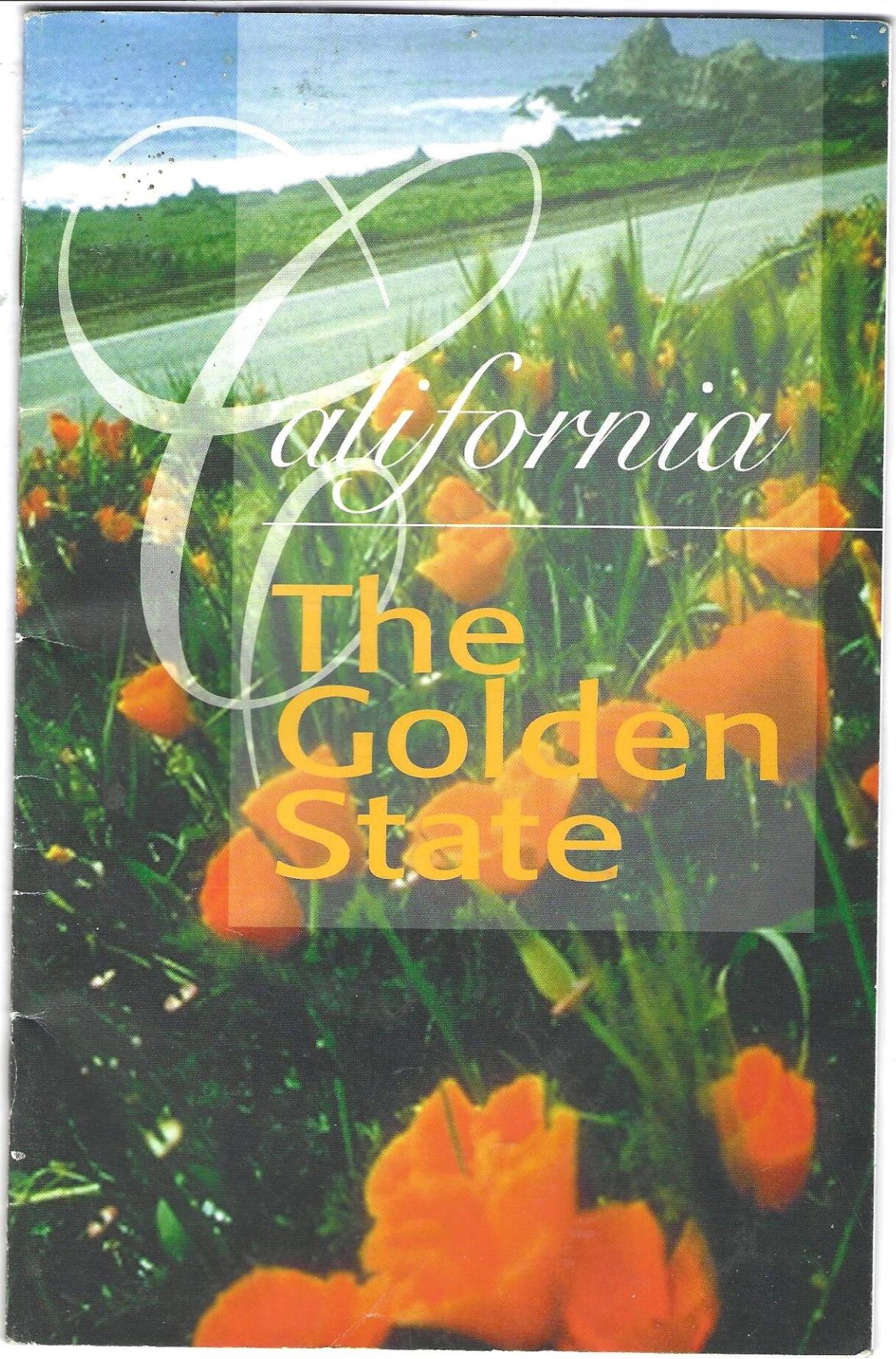

California
The Golden State

Our State Seal

The design for the Great Seal of the State of California was adopted at the Constitutional Convention in 1849. Thirty-one stars are displayed, one for each state which comprised the Union following the admission of California in 1850. Beneath these stars appears the motto, *Eureka* (in Greek, "I have found it!"). The peaks of the Sierra Nevada stand for the grandeur of nature. Shipping on San Francisco Bay typifies commerce. A miner laboring with pick, rocker, and pan represents industry. Agricultural wealth is seen in a sheaf of wheat and clusters of grapes. Keeping watch over this tableau is the armored figure of Minerva who, in classical Roman mythology, was the goddess of wisdom. Like the political birth of our state, she was born full grown from the brain of Jupiter, father of the gods and guardian of law and order. At her feet stands a grizzly bear, independent and formidable, symbolizing the State of California.

California
The Golden State

HOW WE BECAME A STATE

The Name of Our State 1
The First Californians 2
Exploration and Settlement 3
A Pastoral Life 4
The Great Gold Rush 6
Statehood 6

HOW WE GOVERN OURSELVES

Capitals and Capitols 7
The Constitution of California 8
The Legislature 10
The Executive 11
- Governor 11
- Lieutenant Governor 12
- Attorney General 12
- Secretary of State 13
- Treasurer 14
- Controller 14
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction 15
- Insurance Commissioner 15

The Judiciary 16

OUR RESOURCES AND OUR WAY OF LIFE

The Land 17
Plant and Animal Life 18
Climate and Population 19
Industry 20
Arts and Sciences 21

EMBLEMS OF OUR STATE 23

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 27

APPENDIX OF INTERNET WEB SITES ..... inside back cover

Compiled and Edited by
GREGORY P. SCHMIDT, Secretary of the Senate
STEPHEN W. HUMMELT, Assistant Secretary
CHERYL BROWN, Amending Clerk

March 1998

Designed by the Office of Senate Reprographics

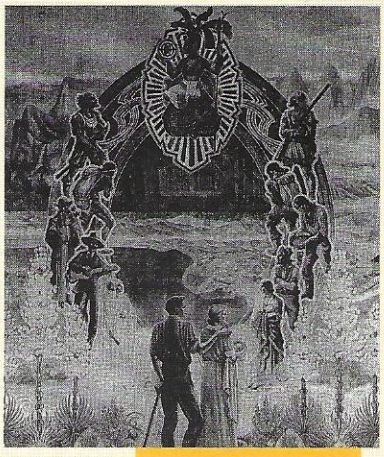
Printed on Recycled Paper

The Name of Our State

The name "California" dates back to a period of Spanish exploration in the 1530's under Hernando Cortés. Where this word came from and what it means has been a subject of lengthy controversy.

In 1862, Edward Everett Hale (author of *The Man without a Country*) reported in the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* that the name California was to be found in an early 16th century romance of chivalry, *Las Sergas de Esplandián.*

> *"Know then, that west of the Indies, but to the east of Eden, lies California, an island peopled by a swarthy, robust, passionate race of women living manless like Amazons. Their island, the most rugged in the world, abounds in gold. Having no other metal, all their arms and armor are made of this gold."*

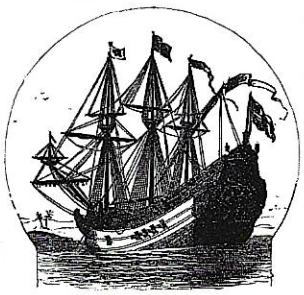


Queen Calafia *- reigns at the top of a mural painted by Lucile Lloyd. Calafia is represented as a Mayan because, as Lloyd explained, "the Mayan civilization is unique to the Americas, and is one of the oldest civilizations in the world."*

The powerful Queen Calafia was said to rule over this fabulous country.

Written by Garcí Ordoñez de Montalvo, the book was published as a sequel to an older and more famous tale, *Amadís de Gaula*. It was the sort of fantastic adventure tale that inspired Cervantes' hero Don Quixote. Novels of this type, filled with incredible feats of knightly derring-do, were extremely popular at the time.

Spain's soldiers and mapmakers were familiar with *Las Sergas*. They borrowed the name as suitable for the new-found territory. Originally applied to the tip of the Mexican peninsula now known as Baja California, the name came to stand for all the lands from Cabo San Lucas north to the fabled Strait of Anían, the Northwest Passage.



Engraving of a galleon during the time of Cabrillo.

In *La Chanson de Roland*, the 11th century national epic of France, Charlemagne, mourning the dead Roland, says, "*Now the Saxons shall rise up against me, and the Bulgars, and the Huns – Apulians, Romans, Sicilians, and the men of Africa and Califerne.*"

Califerne was the domain of the caliph, the ruler of the Islamic world. Boissonade, a French etymologist, suggests that Montalvo was inspired to borrow the Frankish *Califerne* and hispanicize it *California*.

The question of the meaning of the name California remains. Some authorities believe it derives from the Latin phrase "*Calida fornax*" - hot oven. Professor E.G. Gudde (author of *California Place Names*) was unconvinced by attempts to find an etymology for it in any known languages, ancient or modern, and tended to believe that Montalvo had coined the word.

Sierra Miwok, Pomo, Patwin, Wappo, Chumash, Maidu, Yokuts and ***Western Mono*** *(shown above in this vintage photo) were among the more than 57 different Native American tribes living in California.*

In any event, the first appearance of the name California in an official record occurred on July 2, 1542, in the diary of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, as his ship lay off the coast of Baja California. By 1569, Gerardus Mercator was putting it on his maps.

The First Californians

While the place name "California" dates back to the 16th century, the land that is California had been settled by people for tens of thousands of years. This portion of the West Coast was the home of at least 350,000 Native Americans at the time of the first European exploration. Divided into numerous tribes and cultural groupings, speaking hundreds of different languages, these original residents

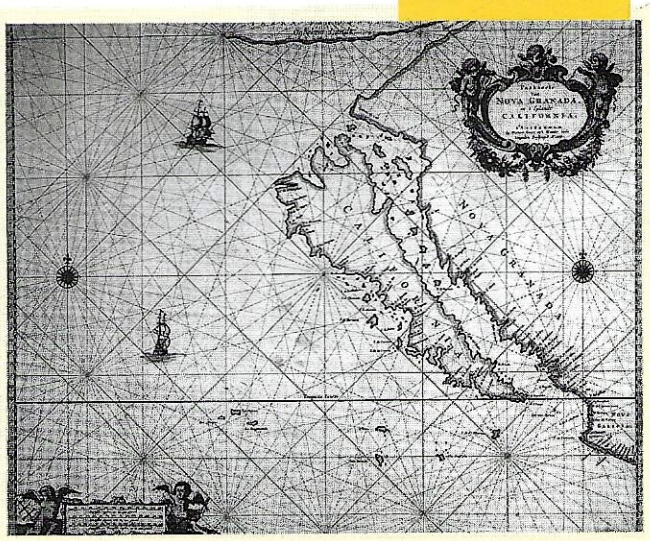
lived primarily by hunting, fishing, and gathering natural food resources. However, they also developed a complex system of trade to gain access to materials not native to their areas and had connected the regions of the state through a network of trails, from village to village, long before the arrival of Europeans.

Native Californian life was keenly attuned to the rhythms of the seasons and respectful of the natural bounty of the state. Pomo and Chumash, Miwok and Maidu, all developed traditions and patterns of consumption reflective of and in balance with their immediate environment. This balance would change forever with the coming of strange new ships on the coast.

Exploration and Settlement

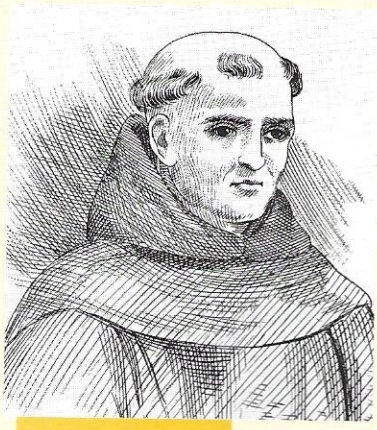
The recorded history of Alta, or Upper California, goes back 450 years to September 28, 1542, when Cabrillo discovered San Diego Bay and explored as far north as Sonoma County. In 1579 Sir Frances Drake put ashore in Northern California, named the territory New Albion, and claimed it for England. In 1584, 1587, and 1595 Manila galleons touched on the coast. In 1602, Sebastián Vizcaíno visited the sites of San Diego and Monterey.

The notion that California was an island persisted in some quarters as late as the 1770's, as illustrated in the map below.



For nearly a century and a half no further exploration took place. Upper California remained a mystery. As late as 1771 the first edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* could say no more than:

"CALLIFORNIA, a large country of the West Indies, lying between 116° and 118° W. Long. and between 23° and 46° N. Lat. It is uncertain whether it be a peninsula or an island."



***Padre Junípero Serra**. The lifework of this heroic frontier priest brought European civilization to California.*

Meanwhile, both England and Russia began showing an interest in the Pacific region. This spurred Spain to secure its old claim to its northern lands. In 1769, Spanish colonization commenced at last with the arrival at San Diego of an expedition led by the first governor of Alta California, Don Gaspar de Portolá.

That year Padre Junípero Serra founded the first in a chain of 21 Franciscan Missions, set a day's journey apart, from San Diego to Sonoma.

Presidios were built by the soldiers, establishing Spain's military presence. The first land grants were made to rancheros which would ultimately become the economic base of the territory. The first towns, or "pueblos", were founded at San José, Los Angeles, and Santa Cruz.

A Pastoral Life

During California's Hispanic era, a way of life, remote from the central governments at Madrid or Mexico City, grew up around four institutions – mission, presidio, rancho, and pueblo. Stability was supplied by the strong social conservatism of Spanish culture.

The missions reflected Spain's colonial policy of converting native peoples to Christianity and a

European lifestyle. However well-intentioned, the mission system marked the beginning of a tragic era for California's native cultures.

California remained free of confrontations among colonial powers and was untouched by the Napoleonic Wars of Europe and the subsequent revolutions that bloodied most of Spanish America. The primary tasks of the soldiers manning the presidios were to explore, to pacify the native peoples, and to carry the mails.

Stockraising and planting were the foundation and sum total of California's wealth. Cattle, horses, and sheep in huge numbers ranged freely. An openhanded hospitality could be had at any of the great, self-sustaining ranchos in this sparsely settled land.

This pastoral society which developed in Alta California remained greatly isolated from both the Old and New Worlds for nearly 75 years, except for occasional visits by foreign vessels illicitly engaged in trading for hides and tallow or sea otter pelts.

In 1822, the flag of the King of Spain was displaced by the eagle banner of the newly independent nation of Mexico. In 1846, a few American settlers launched a revolt, raised the Bear Flag and proclaimed the California Republic. Their effort lasted just 26 days, superseded by the outbreak of the Mexican-American War and the occupation of the province by U.S. troops. In 1848, the weak hold of Mexico City over Alta California was finally and officially ended by terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. That same year, this sleepy backwater community was rudely awakened into turmoil.

Within two years of the discovery of gold at Coloma, California population changed dramatically – changing the rancho life forever.

The Great Gold Rush

California in 1848 found itself with a confusing new American regime, "part military, part civil and part no government at all." The situation degenerated rapidly following the discovery of gold in the tailrace of Captain Sutter's saw mill at Coloma. The resulting stampede to the goldfields was one of the most famous mass movements of population in the 19th century. A horde of fortune hunters from the eastern United States, South America, Europe, and China, descended on California's Mother Lode. Those from the states trekked across the Great Plains, made the voyage around the Horn, or sailed by way of the Isthmus of Panama. These routes took from five to eight months of dangerous travel.

James Wilson Marshall, discoverer of gold – *His discovery at Coloma in El Dorado County was the cause of many men becoming wealthy. Since 1848, over 116 million troy ounces of gold have been mined in California. Marshall, ironically, died a poor man.*

In 1848, the total number of non-Native American people in Alta California was estimated at 13,000. Of these 7,000 were of Hispanic descent, the rest of various nationalities. With the Gold Rush, Latino predominance quickly vanished. Within two years the population exceeded 100,000 with Anglo-Americans forming the substantial majority.

The old society collapsed in anarchy. Out of the general chaos caused by this sudden influx of adventurers there arose popular cry for law and order.

Statehood

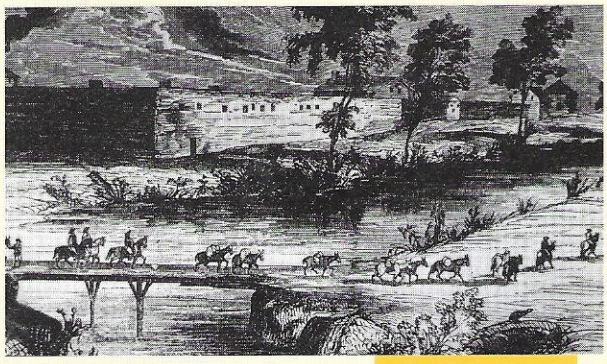
Yielding to public demand, the military governor, General Bennet Riley, issued a call for a constitutional convention which met at Monterey. Following debates in both Spanish and English, as was the practice at the time, the newly minted Constitution was adopted, and a Legislature, a Governor, and other

officers were elected at the polls. California was launched on its path to statehood.

In December of 1849, the first Legislature convened in a hired hall at Pueblo de San José. Among its initial actions was a petition to the Congress of the United States requesting admission to the Union. On September 9, 1850, after some delay caused by the slavery question, California was admitted as a free state. With her level of population and development, she came into the Union fully self-governing without having first undergone probation as a territory.

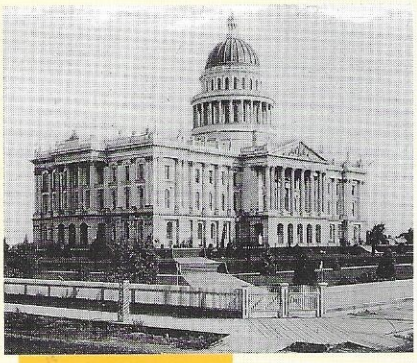
Capitals and Capitols

Between 1769 and 1849, the province of Alta California was governed chiefly from Monterey; for briefer periods, Loreto in Baja California, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara served as administrative centers. Since 1849, the State of California has had five different capital cities - San José, Vallejo, Benicia, San Francisco, and Sacramento. More than a dozen other communities have actively sought this honor. Since 1854, the seat of government has been almost continuously at Sacramento. At the time it became the capital, booming Sacramento City was central to the state's most densely populated areas: the San Francisco Bay Area and the Mother Lode.



Sutter's Fort in the 1840's *– the first site of Sacramento. The fort remains as a living history museum and is one of many tourist attractions depicting early California life.*

Set in 40-acres of broad lawns, towering trees, and cheerful flowers, the present State Capitol



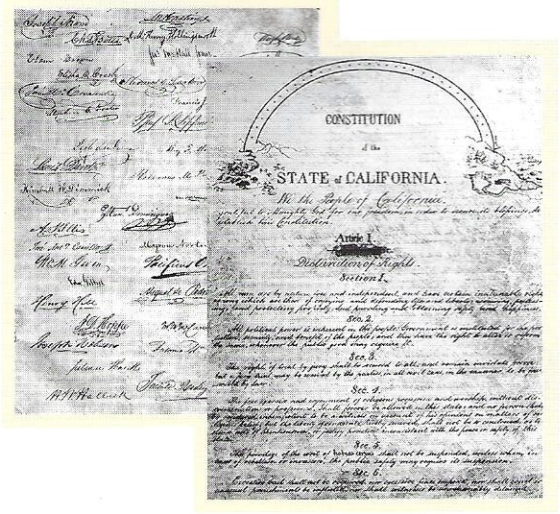
State Capitol, ca. 1875 *- today, tens of thousands of visitors to the State Capitol are able to see how state government offices looked in the early 1900's.*

at Sacramento is California's most notable public building. Begun in 1860, it was first occupied by the Legislature in 1869. Construction was completed by 1874. Declared unsafe in 1973, the building was closed in 1976 for extensive restoration and renovation. This project, completed in 1982, returned the first three floors, together with the legislative chambers and the rotunda, to as near their early 1900's appearance as possible and practical.

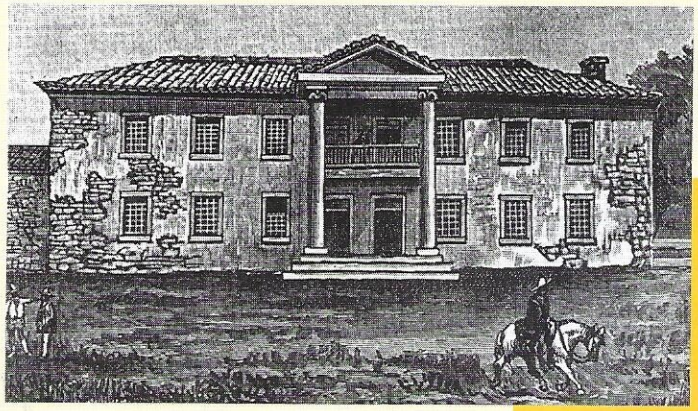
Californians interested in the history of their state government should also visit Colton Hall in Monterey, the site of the state's Constitutional Convention of 1849, and the fully restored Capitol at Benicia, used in 1853-54.

The Constitution of California

The people of California adopted a Constitution which established stable government and defined fundamental principles, rights, and duties. This document is still the basic law of the state. All other laws and regulations must conform to it. It can be amended only by a vote of the people at the polls.



This Constitution separates the functions of our state government into three elected branches - legislative, executive, and judicial. Each branch acts as a check against the unlimited exercise of power by the others. Thus,



Colton Hall, Monterey, 1849 – *California's first Constitutional Convention met for 6 weeks at Colton Hall. The average age of the 48 delegates was 36 years. Seven were native Californians. 22 had been settled here before the American occupation. 19 were newcomers. They claimed the following occupations:*

Ranchers	*14*
Lawyers	*14*
Businessmen	*12*
Military	*4*
Engineers	*2*
Physician	*1*

Leaving one gentleman who put down his calling as "Elegant leisure".

the Legislature can make a law, but the Governor may veto it if he or she thinks it an unwise one, or the Supreme Court may nullify it as being unconstitutional. The Governor can set a policy, but the Legislature may refuse to provide the money to pay for it, or the Supreme Court may restrain its implementation.

This system of self-government by which the people delegate political power to their representatives by electing them for set terms is called representative democracy. It has the same strengths and weaknesses as the people who participate in it. It works by deliberation and compromise. It needs constant tinkering, maintenance, and improvement. Yet it is infinitely adjustable to the people's will.

The Constitution is California's first defense against tyranny. Despite the complexity and conflicting aspirations of today, we remain free to think, speak, and act pretty much as we please. We shall continue to be free so long as we protect our constitutional institutions and respect each other's rights.

The Legislature

The laws by which we live are made by California's State Legislature. It is composed of two houses, Senate and Assembly. There are 40 Senators, of whom half are elected every two years to terms of four years, and 80 Assembly Members, all elected every two years. The Senate is governed by its Rules Committee, with five members elected by the whole Senate; its chief officer is the President pro Tempore. The leader of the Assembly is called the Speaker, chosen by the 80 Assembly Members. A legislator must be 18 or older, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of California and of his or her district for one year.

The Legislature meets at the State Capitol in Sacramento. Regular sessions begin on the first Monday in December of every even-numbered year. Each session lasts for two years, during which time the members enact annual state budgets and legislate on a wide variety of public issues including education, transportation, water, land use, crime and justice, health, and social services.

Capitol at Pueblo de San José, 1849 – This adobe building served as the meeting place of the first Legislature elected and convened under California's Constitution.

To become law, an idea must first be introduced as a *bill*, discussed and studied in committee, probably *amended*, then debated and *passed* by the required vote in both houses. After *passage* the Governor must approve it. If he or she *vetoes* the bill it is dead, unless two-thirds in both houses vote to override the veto.

Our Legislature is often held up as a model for other states and nations. It has been acclaimed for being a highly informed and independent lawmaking body. Californians can take pride in the fact that its official proceedings are open, with up-to-date records available to all, in print or on the Internet.

The Executive

The laws are administered by the state's civil servants under the direct control of eight elected officers – the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Controller, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Insurance Commissioner.

All are elected for terms of four years. Candidates for Governor or Lieutenant Governor must be 18 or older, U.S. citizens, and residents of California for five years. Candidates for one of the other six offices must be 18 or older, U.S. citizens, residents of California, residents of their county, and registered voters within their precinct for 30 days.

Don Gaspar de Portolá, first Governor of California – *From Portolá to 1997, 64 men have held the office of Governor of California. Of these 9 served under Spain, 12 under Mexico, and 7 were military governors appointed by the U.S. From 1849 to 1997, there have been 36 governors elected by the people.*

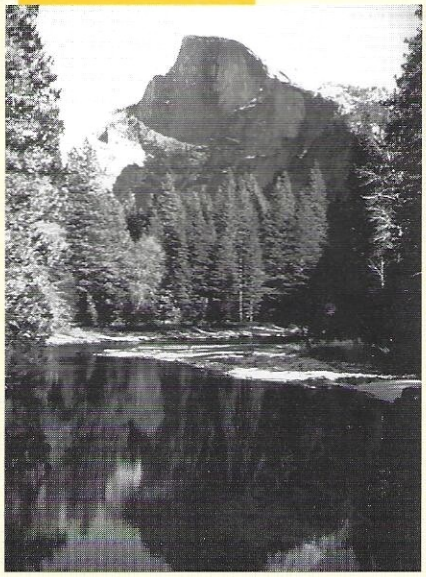
The Governor

The Governor is the chief administrative officer of our state government. He or she has wide powers to plan, organize, direct, and coordinate its activities. The Governor may temporarily fill vacancies occuring in Courts of Record and may appoint many other officers and members of most boards and commissions. He or she has the power to grant pardons, reprieves, and commutations of sentences for criminal offenders. The Governor is commander-in-chief of the California National Guard.

The Governor plays an important role in the legislative process. At the beginning of each year he or she must report on the condition of the state and make recommendations for legislation. The Governor proposes the State Budget. He or she may call the Legislature into extraordinary session by proclamation when emergencies arise. The Governor may veto bills the Legislature passes which are believed to be unsatisfactory.

There are many more powers and duties of this office which are spelled out by the Constitution and the statutes of the state. In all things the Governor must act in accordance with the Constitution, a document he or she has sworn to uphold.

Yosemite – *In 1864, President Lincoln signed into law an act making the Yosemite Valley the first State Park in the Nation. It was the first area of wildland to be conserved in the public interest primarily for its recreational value. Nearly one-fourth of California's acreage has been set aside as State or National Parks and Forests.*



Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is second in authority to the Governor. He or she assumes the powers and duties of that office should the Governor resign, die, be incapacitated, or temporarily leave the State.

The Lieutenant Governor is President of the Senate and, in case of a tie, has the deciding vote in that body.

He or she is a regent of the University of California, a trustee of the California State University, chair of the Commission on Economic Development, a member of the World Trade Commission, and a member of the State Job Training Coordinating Council. The Lieutenant Governor is also a member and chair of the State Lands Commission.

Attorney General

The Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer of the state. It is his or her duty to see that laws are uniformly and adequately enforced in every county. The Attorney General has supervisorial responsibilities over every district attorney, sheriff, and other law enforcement officers in California.

Whenever the Attorney General decides that any law of the state is not being adequately enforced, he or she may prosecute criminal violations; in such cases he or she has the powers of a district attorney.

When directed by the Governor, or if required by the public interest, the Attorney General must assist the district attorneys in the discharge of their duties. It is also the Attorney General's responsibility to give opinions in writing to the Legislature, or to the other constitutional officers when requested, regarding any matter of law relating to their respective offices.

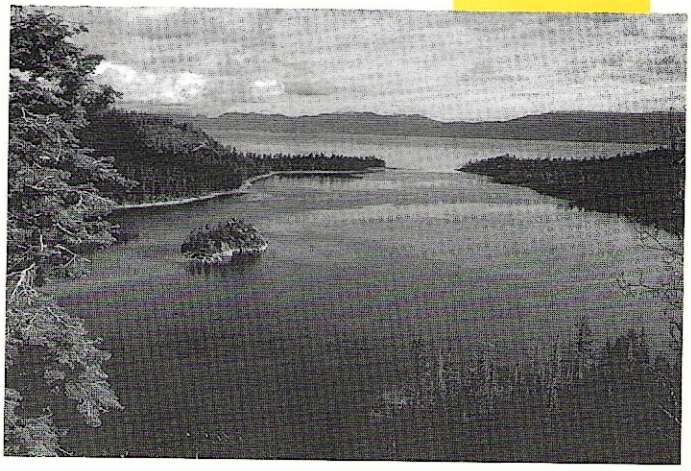
Secretary of State

The Secretary of State, as chief recording officer and archivist of California, must certify and keep a correct copy of all official acts of the executive branch, and all original bills, journals, and reports of the legislative branch. The Secretary is the custodian of the Constitution, the statutory laws, and all other documents deposited in the Archives of the State.

As chief elections officer of California, he or she is responsible for the proper conduct of elections and certifies the resulting vote.

Among many other duties imposed by law, the Secretary of State approves articles of incorporation and

Emerald Bay at Lake Tahoe



trademarks, is chief of the Notaries Public, registrar of lobbyists, and keeper of the Great Seal.

Treasurer

The Treasurer serves as banker for the state, as seller of all state bonds, as investing officer for most state funds, and as custodian of securities and other valuables deposited with the Treasury. He or she serves on all finance committees connected with programs which depend in part upon bond financing and is chairperson of the Pooled Money Investment Board. The duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer are set forth both by the Constitution and by statute.

When requested by either house of the Legislature, or any of its committees, the Treasurer must disclose or explain the condition of the Treasury and respond regarding any other subject relating to the duties of his or her office.

Controller

The Controller is the chief fiscal officer of California. He or she has a variety of duties which have been established both by the Constitution and by statute. As an example, no money can be drawn from the Treasury unless an appropriation has been made by the Legislature and warrants have been issued by the Controller.

The Controller must also suggest plans for the improvement and management of public revenues, keep all accounts in which the state has an interest, audit all claims against the state, and direct and superintend the collection of all moneys due the state.

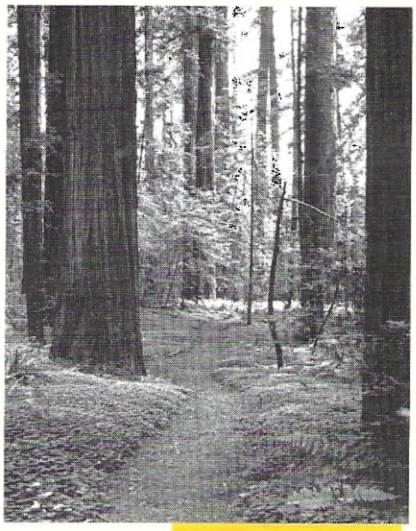
Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Superintendent of Public Instruction, as chief educator, is responsible for administering the public school system in California, including schools for children who have developmental disabilities or other special learning needs.

The Superintendent is secretary and executive officer of the State Board of Education, and carries out the policies which have been decided upon by the board.

He or she directs the distribution of tax dollars allocated to school districts from the State School Fund, and is required to keep the Governor informed regarding the quality of California's educational system.

The Superintendent is also an *ex officio* member of the Board of Regents of the University of California.



The Big Trees - *"Sequoia sempervirens", the scientific name for the coast redwood tree, honors the Indian genius Sequoyah who invented the Cherokee syllabic alphabet, permitting a written record of Native American language. Tallest of these trees is the "National Geographic Tree", located in the Tall Trees Grove. Greatest in girth, the "General Sherman", measures 52,500 cubic feet.*

Insurance Commissioner

Insurance is the only interstate business wholly regulated by the states, rather than the federal government. In California, that responsibility has been placed in an insurance department headed by the Insurance Commissioner. The department was originally organized in 1868, making it the oldest of all the business regulatory agencies of California state government.

The Commissioner oversees a multi-billion dollar industry in California. As administrator, the Commissioner enforces the laws of the California Insurance Code. He or she licenses

agents, brokers, and solicitors, and sets the rates for worker's compensation insurance and property and casualty lines. Prior to 1990, the Commissioner was not a publicly elected official, but was appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

The Judiciary

The laws of California are enforced and interpreted by the courts whenever a person is accused of a crime, or a difference arising between two parties comes to trial, or a will is probated, or a person is wronged by a governmental agency or another person, or one of the branches of government oversteps its constitutional limits.

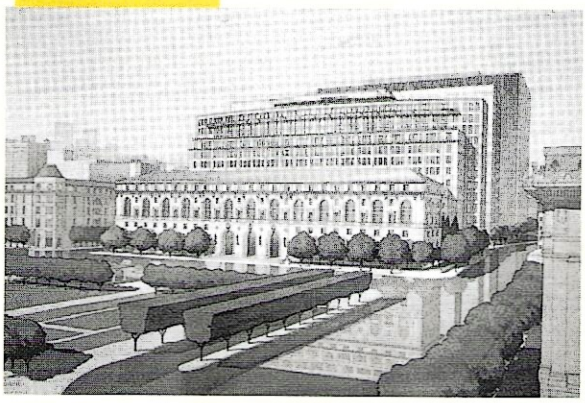
The judicial power of the state is vested in the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, the Superior Courts, and Municipal Courts.

The purpose of the courts is to provide everyone with a forum for settling disputes and applying justice by law and reason.

The rule by which the Judiciary of California guides itself today was first set down in the Magna Carta over 780 years ago:

"To none will we sell, to none deny or delay, right or justice."

Drawing of ***the California Supreme Court*** *building in San Francisco*

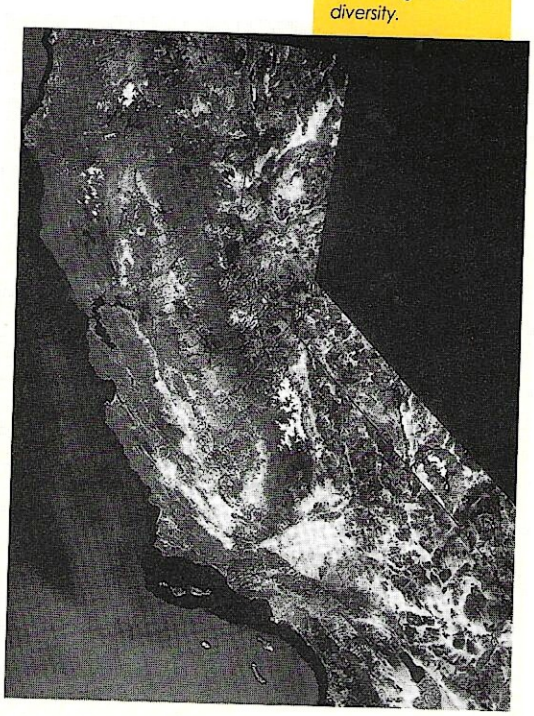


Judicial offices in California are non-partisan. Justices of the Supreme and Appellate Courts are elected for terms of 12 years. Superior, Municipal, and Justice Courts judges are elected every six years.

The Land

Physically the third largest state in the Union, California stretches between 32° and 42° north latitude along the Pacific Coast of North America. The distance from the Oregon line to the Mexican border is nearly 1,000 miles. From the seashore to the eastern boundaries with Nevada and Arizona, California's width varies between 150 and 365 miles. The state's area is 158,693 square miles. Three-quarters of California is rolling hills, desert, and high mountainous country. Mt. Whitney, at 14,495 feet, is the loftiest peak in the United States outside Alaska. In contrast, only 60 miles farther east in Death Valley, Badwater lies 282 feet below sea level, the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere.

California's topography is remarkable for the wide range of its diversity.

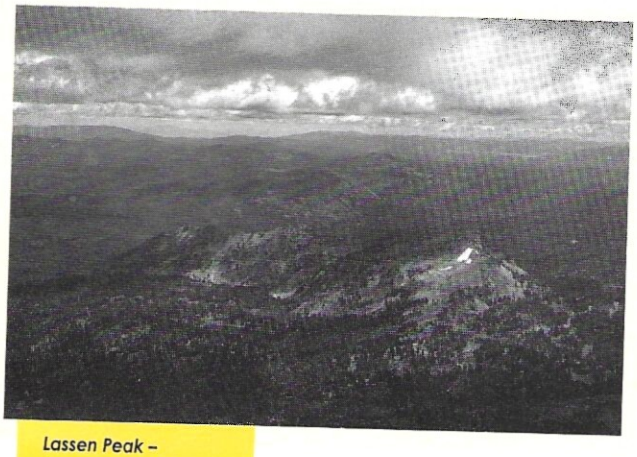


California is bounded on the north by the volcanic Cascade Range, on the east by the Sierra Nevada, and on the west by the Coast Range. All enclose the long, fertile Central Valley, which comprises one-fourth of the state's land area. To the southeast lie the arid deserts of the Great Basin.

Along the coast, harbors exist at Crescent City, Eureka, San Francisco, Oakland, Monterey, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego. Inland, Northern California is watered by the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries, while Southern California must rely on water imported over long distances by a man-made system of aqueducts.

Plant and Animal Life

Every type of life-zone found on the North American continent is also found in California. There exists a wealth of diverse wildlife, some forms unique to the state.



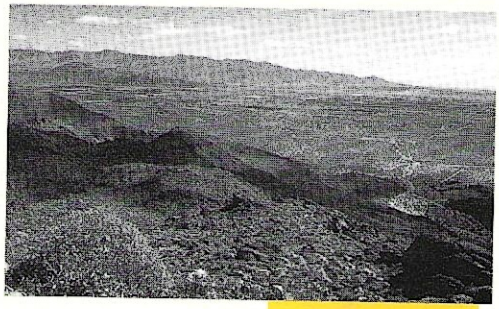
Lassen Peak – *Lassen Volcanic National Park, 250 miles north of San Francisco, is a unique area, and one of the most interesting and scenic spots in America. Rugged mountains loom on all sides, while mighty forests blanket the slopes up to the timberline. Lassen Peak (10,453 feet high) dominates the area, and is one of a long succession of volcanoes, located at the point where a southerly spur of the Cascade Range joins the Sierra Nevada. It is not yet extinct, and volcanic activity may be seen in many places in the area.*

Of the rich variety of plantlife native to the state, three trees are worthy of special note. The Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*), a tough, wind-stunted tree found at an altitude of 11,000 feet, aged nearly 5,000 years, is probably the oldest living thing in the world. The California Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), a straight, towering tree found along the North and Central Coast area, is the tallest living thing in the world. The species of Redwood known as *Sequoia gigantea*, a tree of tremendous girth found in the Sierra Nevada, is the largest living thing in the world.

Some of the most notable forms of animal life found in California have suffered severely due to human population growth and development. The huge Grizzly Bear (*Ursus horribilis californicus*), once common, was hunted out of existence. The California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) and the California Gray Whale (*Eschrichtius gibbosus*), once in danger of extinction, are experiencing revival due to strong conservation efforts. The Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor californica*), the Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) and the tiny Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*) are examples of the growing list of creatures fully protected by law.

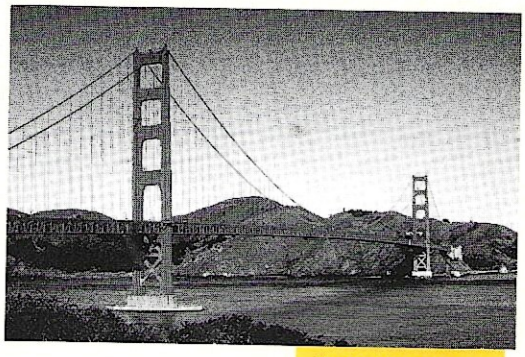
Climate and Population

California enjoys a temperate climate, generally milder and more uniform than elsewhere in the nation. The seasons tend to blur together. However, within the state's boundaries exceptions can be found - extremely hot and dry deserts, high mountains with perpetual ice and snow, rain-soaked and fogbound stretches of coast. The warm belts most characteristic of the state and where most of the population reside are below the 2,000-foot elevation.



Edge of the Anza-Borrego Desert

Attracted by the fine climate and prospect for economic advancement, the number of people in the state doubled every 20 years for over a century. By recent count there are over 32 million inhabitants of California, more than any other state in the Union. The majority live in the southern coastal area. More than 9 million live in Los Angeles County alone.

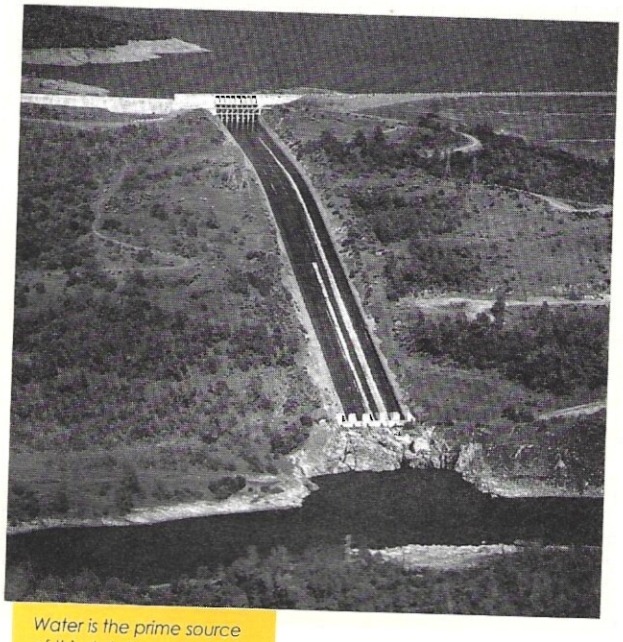


The Golden Gate Bridge – a San Francisco landmark.

This tremendous pool of labor and talent, together with the generosity of the environment, has made California first in many fields of endeavor. California generates 13 percent of our country's Gross National Product, more than any other state in the Union. The pioneer spirit of the 19th century continues today with new Californians from Latin America, Asia, and the former Communist Bloc making valuable contributions of spirit and initiative.

Industry

Prior to 1860, almost every manufactured article used in California had to be imported from the East Coast, Europe, or China. Today, the volume and diversity of California's economic resources and types of industry are so great that the people could sustain themselves as an isolated society if necessary. If the state were an independent country, its gross state product would represent the seventh largest economy in the world.



Water is the prime source of this state's wealth. From early Spanish days, California has had to depend for its water needs on increasingly complex systems of dams, aqueducts and irrigation canals. Presently, a water plan of vast scope harnesses the more abundant, natural water supply of Northern California, sending much needed water and power to the drier, southern part of the state, for use by major industries and urban centers located there. Five hundred miles north of Los Angeles is ***Oroville Dam on the Feather River****, a unit in this huge program. It is the highest dam in the U.S. towering 754 feet, and contains the largest underground powerplant in the Nation.*

Leading industries include aircraft and aerospace, electronics, petroleum, publishing, film making, tourism, forest products, textiles, fisheries, food processing, and communications. California is the birthplace and home of the world's computer industry.

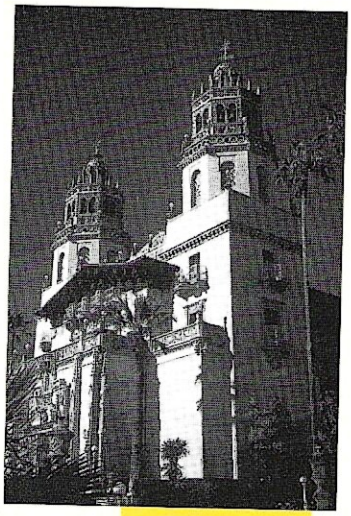
California is America's number one agricultural state. It leads the nation in the production of food and fiber. Though highly urbanized, the state is a pioneer in scientific farming, showing the world how to increase quantity, quality, and efficiency in feeding and clothing its ever growing population.

Leadership in other industries is also traceable to a superior technology. This is a direct result of California's willingness to invest heavily in education, experimentation, and research.

Arts and Sciences

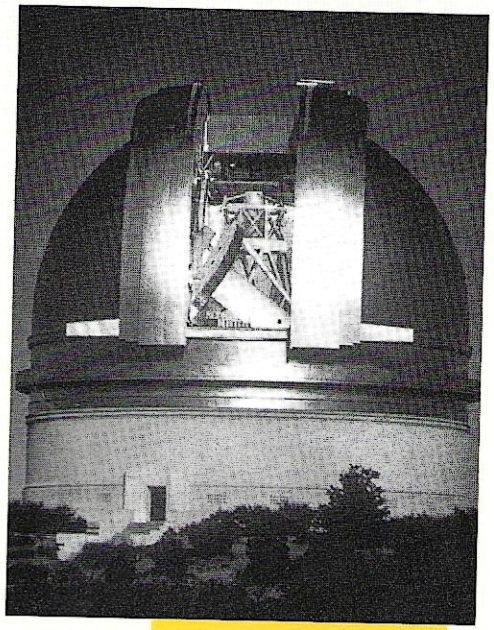
California is justly proud of its cultural assets. An unusual degree of imagination and competence in the fine arts and pure science have made the California influence felt throughout the world.

The quality of life has been enhanced by the musicians, actors, architects, writers, and artists of every description who have found creative stimulus in the freedom and natural grandeur of the state. California's libraries, galleries, concert halls, theaters and thriving schools of fine arts, and computer graphics testify to the popularity and high level of artistic attainment in the Golden State.

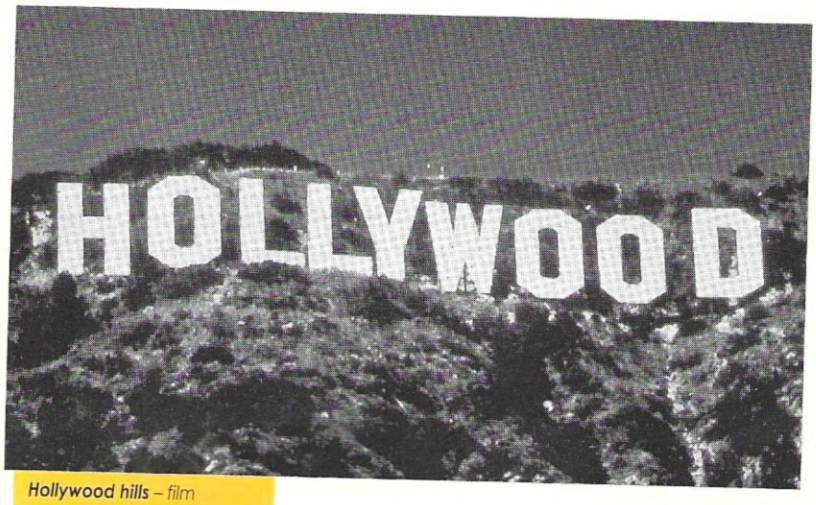


A wide cross section of art can be seen at Hearst's Castle in ***San Simeon.***

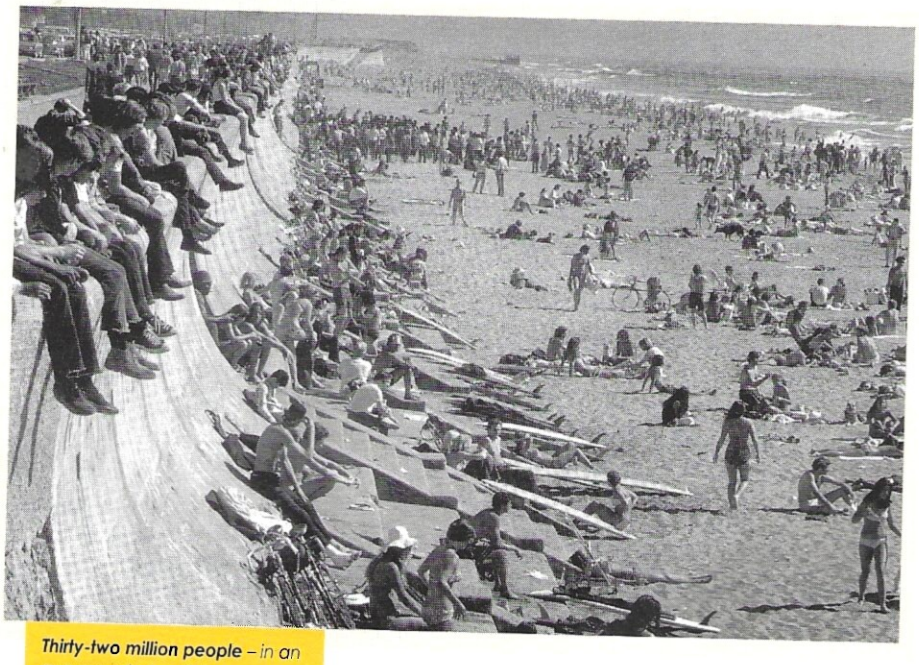
As a center of scholarly thought and research, California has earned international renown. There are over 550 public and private colleges and universities in California. In 1998, the University of California faculty included 18 Nobel laureates and has had 32 Nobel laureates since 1939. California's scientists probe every corner of the universe: while the Martian landscape is being photographed by California instruments, marine biologists of the Scripps Institution explore the deepest trenches of the ocean. Technical research in the name of pure science has had a very practical side effect for California – an enhanced standard of living.



Palomar Mountain Observatory *- one of the world's most powerful astronomical telescopes, the 200 inch Hale reflector, is housed in this great dome, 6126 feet above sea level, in a primitive area of San Diego County.*



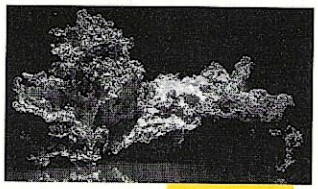
Hollywood hills *– film making is one of the many leading industries in California.*



Thirty-two million people *– in an overcrowded society we can easily lose our personal liberties unless we take an informed interest in our own government, live responsibly, and respect each other's rights.*

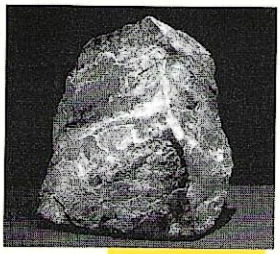
Emblems of Our State

State Motto – *Eureka,* appears on the Great Seal of the State. It is a Greek word meaning *I have found it,* referring originally to the discovery of gold.



Gold

State Nickname – *The Golden State*, is appropriate because modern California's development and remarkable prosperity began with the discovery of gold.



Serpentinite

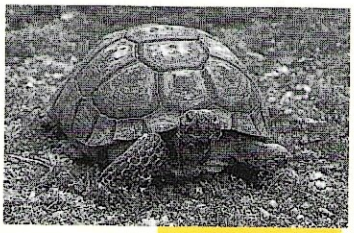
State Colors – Blue and Gold ribbons *(Yale blue and golden yellow)* are used with the Great Seal. They are also the colors of the University of California.

State Song — *I Love You, California,* designated the state song in 1951.

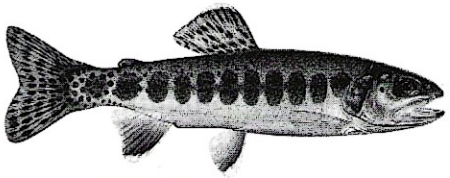
The Grizzly Bear

State Mineral – native Gold. This state has produced more gold than any other in the Union, and gold is still being panned from streambeds and mined in modern operations.

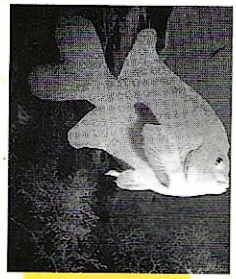
State Rock – Serpentinite. A greenish rock, metamorphic in origin, found along the entire coast region and in the western slopes of the Sierra.



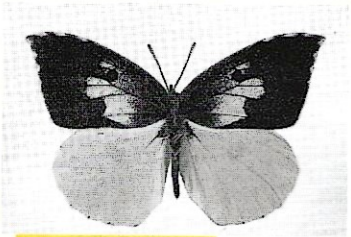
The Desert Tortoise



Golden Trout



Garibaldi



Dog-face Butterfly

California Redwood

State Animal – the Grizzly Bear *(Ursus horribilis californicus)*, appears on the State Flag and the Great Seal. A bear frequently symbolizes California in political cartoons. Now extinct in California, a similar species is still found in Alaska, Canada, and the northern Rockies.

State Reptile – the Desert Tortoise *(Gopherus agassizii)*, is found on flats, alluvial fans, bajadas and rocky terrain.

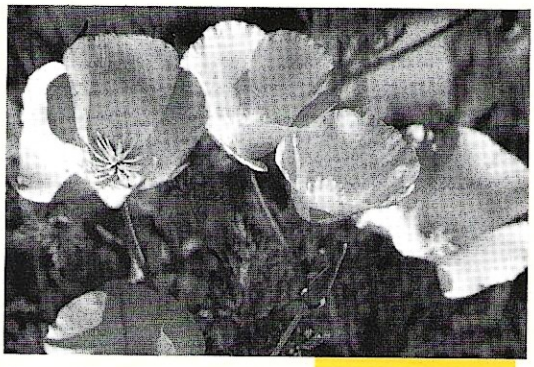
State Fish – the California Golden Trout *(Salmo agua-bonita)*, is native to no other state. It is found only in the icy streams of the High Sierra.

State Marine Fish – the Garibaldi *(Hypsypops Rubicundus)*, a member of the damsel fish family, is found from Monterey Bay to Baja California.

State Insect – the California Dog-face Butterfly *(Zerene eurydice)*, is found only in this state.

State Tree – the California Redwood in both its forms, Coastal *(Sequoia sempervirens)* and Sierra *(Sequoia gigantea)*, is among the most ancient and awesome of living things. Except for portions of southern Oregon, forests of these giant trees exist only in California.

State Flower – the Golden Poppy *(Eschscholtzia californica)*, can be found blooming in some part of the state throughout the year. April 6 is *California Poppy Day*.



The Golden Poppy

State Bird – the California Valley Quail *(Laphortyx californica)*. Found throughout the state, it is a prized game bird noted for its hardiness and adaptability.

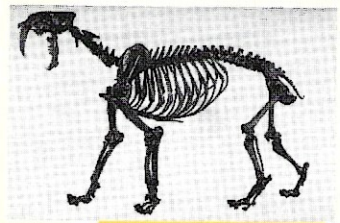
The Valley Quail

State Flag – the Bear Flag, was first raised in 1846 by American settlers during an uprising against rule from Mexico. Although the *California Republic* was shortlived, its flag remains in use as a symbol of our history and tradition.

The Bear Flag

State Fossil – the Saber-toothed Cat *(Smilodon californicus)*.

State Prehistoric Artifact – the Chipped Stone Bear.

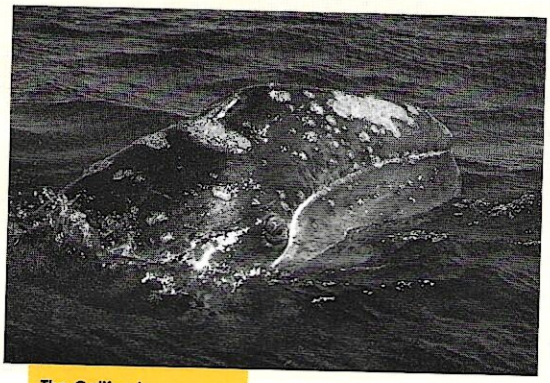


The Saber-toothed Cat

San Joaquin Soil

State Marine Mammal – the California Gray Whale *(Eschrichtius robustus)*. Pods of these creatures can be seen along the coast making their annual 14,000 mile migration from the Arctic to the lagoons of Baja California and back.

State Gemstone – Benitoite. First discovered in 1907 in San Benito County, it is found primarily in California and is sapphire-like in appearance.

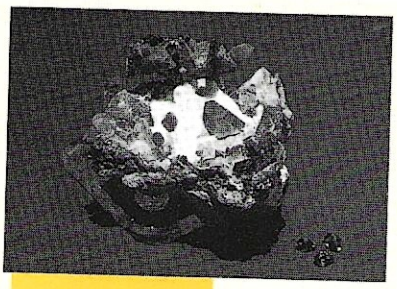


The California Gray Whale

State Soil – San Joaquin Soil. This emblem was recently adopted due to the work of students at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Madera.

State Dance – the West Coast Swing Dance.

State Folk Dance – the Square Dance.



Benitoite

State Historical Society – the California Historical Society was designated by the Legislature in 1979.

State Theater – the Pasadena Community Playhouse was selected as California's honorary State Theater in 1937.

Acknowledgments

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

ifc *(State seal)* Secretary of State, California State Archives

p. 2 *(Galleon)* California State Library Archives

(Western Mono) Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California at Berkeley

p. 3 *(Historical Map of California)* California State Library Archives

p. 4 *(Padre Juníper Serra)* California State Library Archives

p. 5 *(Gold rush photo)* California State Library

p. 6 *(James Marshall)* © California State Parks

p. 7 *(Sutter's Fort)* © California State Parks

p. 8 *(State Capitol)* ca. 1875, Secretary of the Senate, California Legislature

(Constitution) Secretary of State, California State Archives

p. 9 *(Colton Hall)* California State Library Archives

p. 10 *(Pueblo de San Jose)* California State Library Archives

p. 12 *(Yosemite)* California Department of Water Resources

p. 13 *(Emerald Bay)* California Department of Water Resources

p. 15 *(The Big Trees)* © California State Parks

p. 16 *(California Supreme Court Building)* Michael Tye

p. 17 *(California topography map)* NASA, courtesy of Jack Bethelot, California Department of Water Resources

p. 18 *(Lassen Peak)* California Department of Water Resources

p. 19 *(Golden Gate Bridge)* California Department of Water Resources

p. 20 *(Oroville Dam)* California Department of Water Resources

p. 21 *(San Simeon)* © California State Parks

(Palomar Mountain Observatory) © California State Parks

p. 22 *(Hollywood Hills)* Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

(Beach) California Department of Water Resources

p. 23 *(Gold)* California Department of Fish and Game

(Serpentinite) California Department of Fish and Game

(Grizzly Bear) Tom Myers

(Desert Tortoise) John M. Holden

p. 24 *(Golden Trout)* ©Joseph R. Tomelleri

(Garibaldi) Jo Arnett

(Dog-face Butterfly) ©1997, Greg Ballmer

(California Redwood) JP. Mette III

p. 25 *(Golden Poppy)* JP. Mette III

(Valley Quail) Gregory S. White

(Bear Flag) California Department of Water Resources

(Saber-toothed Cat) George C. Page Museum

p. 26 *(State soil)* Dr. Gordon Huntington, Lecturer Emeritus, University of California at Davis, Dept. of Land, Air and Water Resources

(California Gray Whale) Jeff Foott

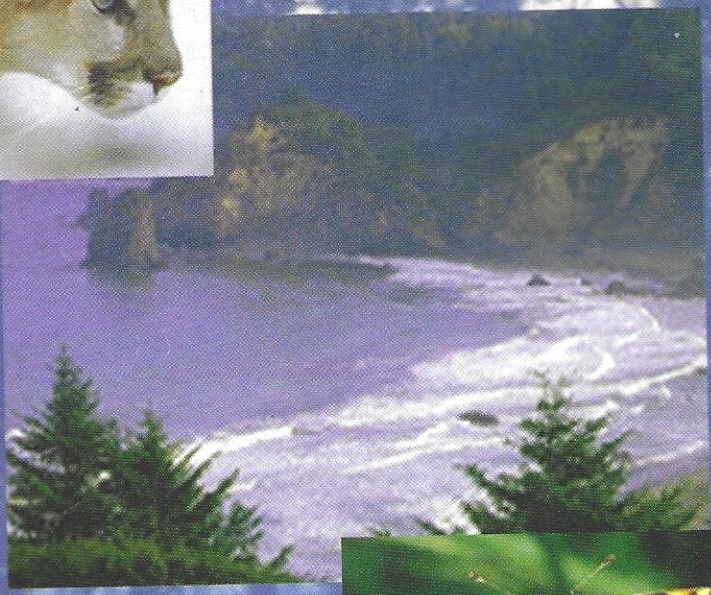
(Benitoite) California Department of Fish and Game

SPECIAL THANKS

California Research Bureau
California History Section, California State Library
Special Collections, California State Library
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Water Resources
Secretary of State, California State Archives
Department of Conservation
Native American Heritage Commission
George C. Page Museum
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

Appendix of Internet Web Sites

California Home Page	http://www.ca.gov/
California State Senate	http://www.sen.ca.gov/
California State Assembly	http://www.assembly.ca.gov/
Legislative Information	http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/
Judiciary	http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/



GCIU LOCAL 583 731M